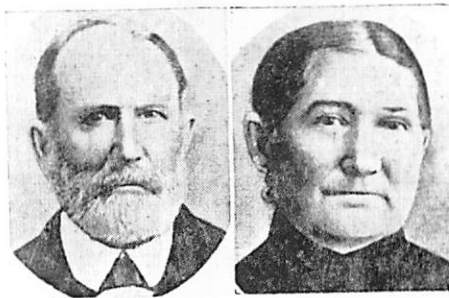


HYRUM AND SARAH ANN WOODS OAKS



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The old Hyrum Oaks home built on his homestead farm at the mouth of Daniels Canyon.

March 26, 1902 and Sarah Ann on April 8, 1906, at Vernal, Utah.

The family moved to New York and from there to Illinois. While moving around they came in contact with the Church and later joined.

While in Illinois, Hyrum worked for the Prophet Joseph Smith's father. He became the best of friends with the Prophet, playing ball and participating in many other sports with him. While he was staying at the Smith home, the four mummies from which the papyrus scrolls for the Pearl of Great Price were taken, were sent there. These mummies were placed in the room opposite his room, unknown to him. He said the door had blown open during the night and on awakening he saw the mummies. He became so frightened he grabbed his clothes and ran downstairs.

He worked on the Nauvoo Temple 12 years without any pay and helped dig the well under the temple. He served as a body-guard for the Prophet, having many strange and terrible experiences. At the time of the martyrdom of Joseph and Hyrum he said it was one of the most gruesome experiences in his life, for he knew them as well as he knew his own brothers.

He married 19-year-old Sarah Ann Woods on December 5, 1848, at Winter Quarters. Born 1827, in Cornwall, Canada. On July 4, Sarah was a daughter of David and Catherine Christs Woods and was born April 8, 1840, she, with her family, crossed the St. Lawrence River, arriving on October 1, 1840, at Nauvoo, and made their home there until they were driven from the city by the mob in 1845. From there they went across the Mississippi River into Iowa and to Winter Quarters. She also was well acquainted with the Prophet Joseph Smith and his wife, Emma, having worked for her. She also knew Hyrum Smith and was in Nauvoo at the time of the martyrdom in Carthage jail, and saw their dead bodies. She knew they were prophets of God. She worked in the Primary Association. She died at Vernal on April 8, 1906, on her seventy-ninth birthday.

They, with his parents and family, came across the plains with the Wilford Wood company. He was at the Haun's Mill massacre when the mob followed them and killed many. The company arrived in Salt

Lake in 1852. He knew President Brigham Young very well. They had only been in Salt Lake a short time when they were sent to American Fork by President Young and later sent to Provo or Heber Valley.

They were among the first settlers to spend the winter in this valley. Their first homestead was by the old Heber Creamery spring. They were here a few years and then moved out to what later was known as the George and John Clift place, at the mouth of Daniels Canyon. Here he farmed and ran a saw and shingle mill. Before they could raise enough hay of their own they went into Strawberry Valley, cut meadow hay and hauled it home for their stock's winter feed. In the winter he hunted in the mountains. He did his own blacksmithing, horseshoeing and repairs in his mill.

He was instrumental in surveying the mile-long Strawberry Canal in 1879, with the aid of his son John and William S. Bethers, using a plumbob and spirit level. Many competent surveyors say that this canal is one of the best surveyed mountain ditches they have ever seen.

Indians were a constant problem to the settlers, stealing horses and cattle and threatening the settlers' lives. Whenever the Indians were on the rampage, Hyrum was always called out to help, because he was a good shot. He never would tell how many Indians he killed. He fought in the Blackhawk War.

He liked amusements and played the violin for many dances in the valley.

In 1899 he moved his family and saw-mill to Ashley Valley, now known as Vernal, hauling his mill out with ox teams and locating at Oaks Park on Taylor Mountain.

Hyrum and Sarah Ann were the parents of 11 children: Martin, William Henry, Katherine, Edwin, John Osborn, Sarah Ann, Rozella, Mary Agnes, James, Oscar Alonzo, and Amanda Elizabeth.

Log Cabin

coursed down all of these hollows and canyons, emptying into Daniels Creek.

Hyrum Oaks was one of the first settlers of Provo Valley and eventually took up ground at the mouth of Daniels Canyon, from where you can look out over the valley. Tom Brown, a relative, lived down in the creek bottoms where he could raise garden crops, sweet potatoes, and peanuts. Hyrum Oaks went through the canyon into Strawberry Valley to cut wild hay for his stock. In 1879, Hyrum, with the help of William Bethers, surveyed a canal at the north end of Strawberry Valley with a spirit-level and plumb-bob to bring water over into Daniels Canyon by way of McQuire. He also operated a sawmill. Joe Jacobs lived just above the homes of Oaks, and Jim Ivie near the present site of the Strawberry headgate.

Ben Bromley and his family lived on the flat at the mouth of Bromley Hollow in a long two-roomed dirt-roofed cabin. Eli Gordon lived farther up the creek, then came Swen Bjorkman's; above them Ab Shelton, and Bob and Liza Winterton Giles had built their homes. John Winterton lived on Indian Flat which he fenced with brush, made a road against the hill, and farmed for two years before he left the valley.

The "Wasatch Wave" of August 14, 1896 states: "The corps of the Rio Grande Western surveyors who have been running a line through Daniels Canyon for the past month, commencing at the summit this side of Strawberry Valley, are down to the mouth of the canyon and will soon have the work completed to Heber. As has been previously stated in these columns, the main line of the new railroad will run through Daniels Canyon and tap the reservation country and Colorado points, thus making Heber the central point in this valley and from where a branch line will be run over to Park City." The rail line did not materialize.

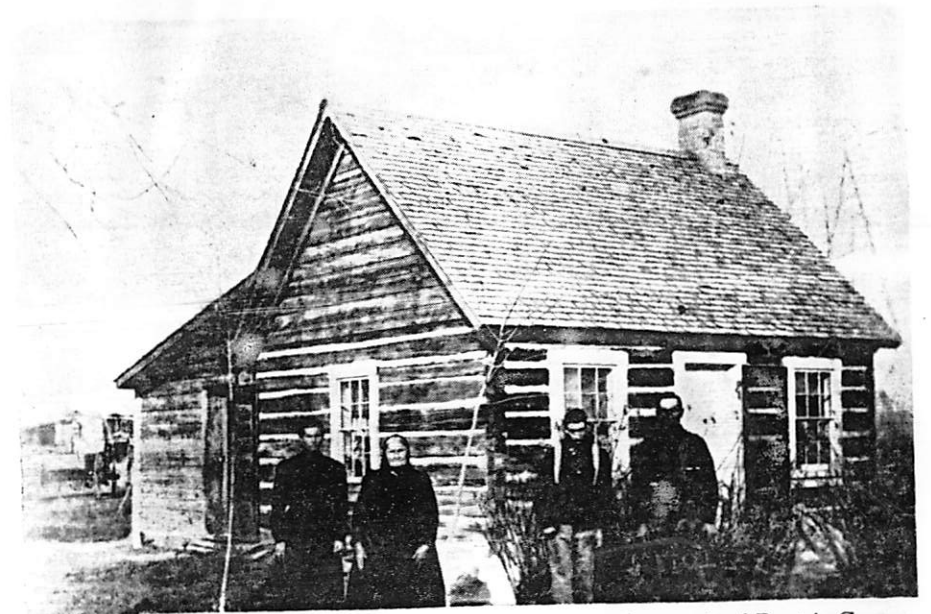
On March 24, 1899 the Wasatch Wave contained an article stating the William Bethers and others had found a good vein of elaterite just east of the old Forman sawmill site in Daniels Canyon. It is now known as the Wax Mine, although not operating.

In 1905, when the Uintah Reservation was thrown open, Theodore Freze took up a homestead at the head of Daniels Canyon. During a quarrel Don Herbert fatally shot Theodore. Herbert died before he was brought to trial. Theodore's youngest brother, Vic, got the place but became dissatisfied and gave it up. It now belongs in the Bethers family.

The road through Daniels Canyon during the early years was a narrow, twisting trail that crossed the stream by fording shallow places or hitting many bridges at just the right angle when coming down with long loads of timber. In the spring the mud would be almost hub deep; in the summer, deep dust, and in the winter, always the danger of snow slides.



The old Hyrum Oaks home built on his homestead farm at the mouth of Daniels Canyon.



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thing, especially his mountain home. Visitors enjoyed looking through his scrapbooks, and the many paintings and pictures he displayed.

Being a true Scotsman, he always celebrated the birthday anniversary of Robert Burns on January 25th of each year. He danced the "Highland Fling" like no one else around, to the delight of all the Scots who came to join with him in these entertainments.

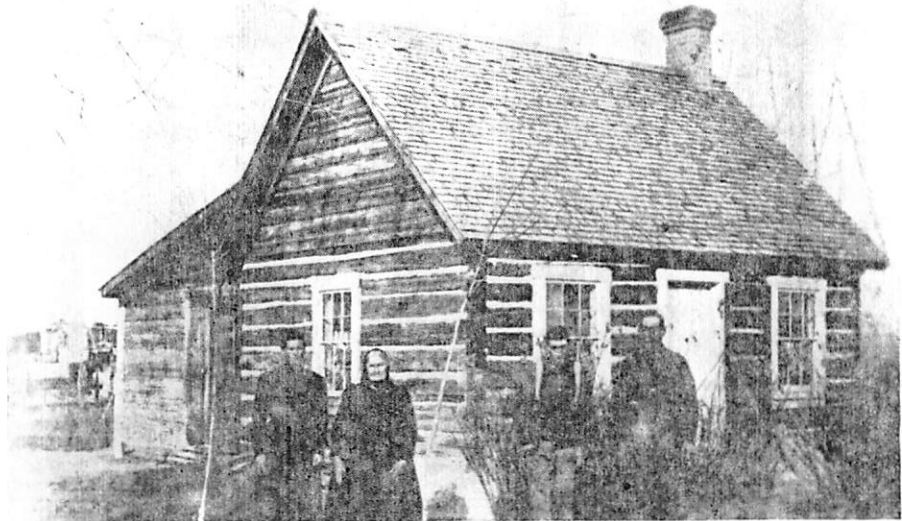
His life had an unfortunate ending as he was buried one wintery night in a huge snowslide that covered completely his home, his pets and all his possessions.

DANIELS CANYON

One of the highest and most scenic spots in Wasatch County is Daniels Canyon, which rises to a height of some 8,000 feet. It was first developed by settlers in the valley who sought summer range lands for their livestock. It was also a popular spot from which settlers took timber to build their homes and other buildings.

Through the canyon, which has very narrow, high, rugged sides, runs a stream of crystal clear water. The canyon sides are covered with grass, shrubs, mahogany, scrub oak and maple trees, quaken aspens and many varieties of pine and fir trees along with service berries, elder berries and choke cherries.

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